IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (currently amended) An information mediating apparatus for providing mediation services for the user, comprising:

a mediating condition storing unit in which mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation has been stored; and

a mediation service processing unit which reads out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit, obtains <u>from another information storing unit on the basis of an acquiring instruction described in</u> specific conditions <u>for the specific conditions having unfixed contents in the</u> ~~in said~~ read-out mediating condition list data<u>, fixes the contents by merging the</u> ~~from another information storing unit, merges said~~ specific conditions, <u>generates mediation result information</u> ~~searches information~~ which satisfies said ~~merged~~ <u>mediating condition list data including the specific</u> conditions<u> having the thus fixed contents</u>, and presents said information to the user.

2.   (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit comprises:

a user interface processing unit which forms display information <u>comprising</u>~~such as~~ <u>a</u> mediation menu<u>,</u>~~,~~<u> and a</u> mediation result<u>,</u>~~, and the like~~ and presents said display information to the user; and

a logic processing unit which reads out said mediating condition list data, notifies a service providing server group of said read-out data, and forms mediation result information by matching with service information.

3.   (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit designates and reads out specific mediating condition list data by analyzing an uncertain, rough, and abstract request from the user.

4. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when an uncertain, rough, and abstract request is received from the user, said mediation service processing unit presents a selection menu in which request contents are divided into items to the user and designates and reads out the specific mediating condition list data in correspondence to selected menu items.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the~~the~~a case where a referring ~~conditions~~instruction of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit extracts corresponding personal information and merges it with reference to a personal information storing unit.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the~~a case where a referring ~~conditions~~instruction of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit extracts corresponding personal information and merges it with reference to a personal information storing unit, and in the case where the corresponding personal information does not exist, said mediation service processing unit requests the user to input the personal information.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the~~a case where an inquiring ~~conditions~~instruction to the user exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit requests the user to input personal information.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the~~a case where an inquiring ~~conditions~~instruction to the user exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit merges corresponding personal information as default values by referring to a personal information storing unit and, thereafter, requests the user to input the personal information while presenting said default values.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the~~a case where a calculating ~~conditions~~instruction exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression on the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

10. (original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression on the basis of conditions

merged by referring to a personal information storing unit or by inquiring of the user and merges a result of said calculation into said calculating conditions.

11.   (currently amended) An apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein in ~~the~~a case where the mediating condition list data read out from said mediating condition storing unit has a layer structure, said mediation service processing unit obtains ~~necessary~~ unfixed conditions by sequentially referring to the referring instruction, the user inquiring instruction, or the calculating instruction of the personal information storing unit from a predetermined layer, ~~by inquiring of the user, and/or by performing a calculating process and merges~~and merging them.

12.   (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit forms new mediating condition list data on the basis of a mediation result presented to the user and decided and stores it into said mediating condition storing unit.

13.   (currently amended) An information mediating method of providing mediation services for the user, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
        storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;
        reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;
        for specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data, obtaining ~~specific conditions in said read-out mediating condition list data by referring to another~~information from another ~~storing~~unit on the basis of obtaining instruction described in said specific conditions, ~~by inquiring of the user, and/or by performing a calculating process based on predetermined conditions~~and merging ~~said specific conditions~~the same to fix the contents thereof; and
        ~~searching~~generating mediation result information which satisfies said ~~merged~~condition list data including said specified conditions ~~and presenting said information to the user~~having the thus fixed contents.

14.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which an information mediating program for providing mediation services for the user has been stored, wherein:

said information mediating program comprises ~~the steps of~~:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

~~obtaining~~ <u>for</u> specific conditions ~~in said~~ <u>having unfixed contents in the</u> read-out mediating condition list data<u>, obtaining</u> ~~by referring to another~~ information <u>from another</u> ~~storing~~ unit <u>on the basis of the obtaining instruction described in</u> ~~, by inquiring of the user, and/or by performing a calculating process based on predetermined conditions and merging~~ said specific conditions <u>and margining the same to fix the contents thereof</u>; and

~~searching~~ <u>generating mediation result</u> information which satisfies said ~~merged conditions and presenting said information to the user~~ <u>condition list data including said specified conditions having the thus fixed contents</u>.

15.   (new) A method of providing intermediary services to a user, comprising:

storing a list of intermediary service information for each of the services the intermediary service information list comprising fixed service information and a variable information source;

receiving a service request from a user and identifying a service on the list;

obtaining variable service information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list; and

merging the fixed service information and the variable service information and providing the intermediary service of the service request to the user responsive to the merged information.